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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/917,829	07/31/2001	Nobuo Nukaga	NIT-287	1721

7590

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SUITE 370  
1800 DIAGONAL ROAD  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

CHAWAN, VIJAY B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2654

DATE MAILED: 06/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/917,829	<b>Applicant(s)</b> NUKAGA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Vijay B. Chawan	<b>Art Unit</b> 2654	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☒ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/31/01</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Priority***

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Japan on 11 June 2001. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the 2001-175090 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

### ***Specification***

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper content of an abstract of the disclosure.

A patent abstract is a concise statement of the technical disclosure of the patent and should include that which is new in the art to which the invention pertains. If the patent is of a basic nature, the entire technical disclosure may be new in the art, and the abstract should be directed to the entire disclosure. If the patent is in the nature of an improvement in an old apparatus, process, product, or composition, the abstract should include the technical disclosure of the improvement. In certain patents, particularly those for compounds and compositions, wherein the process for making and/or the use thereof are not obvious, the abstract should set forth a process for making and/or use thereof. If the new technical disclosure involves modifications or alternatives, the abstract should mention by way of example the preferred modification or alternative.

The abstract should not refer to purported merits or speculative applications of the invention and should not compare the invention with the prior art.

Where applicable, the abstract should include the following:

- (1) if a machine or apparatus, its organization and operation;
- (2) if an article, its method of making;
- (3) if a chemical compound, its identity and use;
- (4) if a mixture, its ingredients;
- (5) if a process, the steps.

Extensive mechanical and design details of apparatus should not be given.

3. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the abstract is too long. Please refer to the content requirement of the abstract provided above. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).
4. A substitute specification in proper idiomatic English and in compliance with 37 CFR 1.52(a) and (b) is required. The substitute specification filed must be accompanied by a statement that it contains no new matter.

### ***Claim Objections***

5. Claims 1-9, are objected to because of the following informalities: claims as presented are conversational in nature, and the claim language is not clear as what the applicant regards/claims to be as his/her invention. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

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7. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Vermeulen et al., (6,810,379).

As per claim 1, Vermeulen et al., teach a voice synthesizing method of converting a stereotyped sentence to a voice through voice synthesis, comprising the steps of:

determining a voice-contents identifier to point a type of voice contents to said stereotyped sentence(Col.1, lines 21-51);

preparing a speech style dictionary including speech style and prosody data, which, corresponds to said voice-contents identifier (Col.1, lines 61- 67);

selecting prosody data of said synthesized voice to be generated from said speech style dictionary by pointing a contents identifier and a speech style for a synthesized voice to be generated (Col.2, lines 1-21); and,

adding said selected prosody data to voice synthesizing means as voice-synthesizer driving data to thereby perform voice synthesis with a specific speech style (Col.22,lines 22-51).

As per claim 2, Vermeulen et al., teach the voice synthesizing method according to claim 1, wherein said prosody data comprises at least a sequence of phonetic symbols that are voice elements into which said voice contents of said stereotyped sentence are broken up, and information on a duration, an intensity, and power of each of the voice elements constituting said sequence of said phonetic symbols (Col.1, lines 21-51, Col.7, lines 33-58).

As per claim 3, Vermeulen et al., teach a voice synthesizer for performing voice synthesis by converting a stereotyped sentence to prosody data and adding said prosody data to a voice synthesizing part as voice synthesizer driving data, comprising:

a voice-contents identifier for pointing a type of voice contents of said stereotyped sentence (Col.1, lines 21-51);

a memory for storing a speech style dictionary in which speech-style pointing information to point a speech style for synthesized voice and prosody data are associated with each other (Col.7, lines 4-32);

pointing means for pointing a voice contents identifier and a speech style of a voice to be synthesized at a time of voice synthesis (Col.2, lines 1-21); and,

said voice synthesizing part for selecting said prosody data pointed by said pointing means from said speech style dictionary and converting said prosody data to a voice signal (Col.2, lines 22-51).

As per claim 4, Vermeulen et al., teach a voice synthesizer according to claim 3, wherein said prosody data comprises at least a sequence of phonetic symbols that are voice elements into which said voice contents of said stereotyped sentence are broken up, and information on a duration, an intensity and power of each of voice elements constituting said sequence of phonetic symbols (Col.1, lines 21-51, Col.7, lines 33-58).

As per claim 5, Vermeulen et al., teach a cellular phone having a voice synthesizer as recited in claim 3 (Col.8, lines 29-33).

As per claim 6, Vermeulen et al., teach a prosody data distributing method of performing voice synthesis by converting a stereotyped sentence to prosody data and

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adding said prosody data to a voice synthesizing part in a terminal device as voice-synthesizer driving data, comprising steps of:

determining a voice-contents identifier to point a type of voice contents of said stereotyped sentence (Col.1, lines 21-51);

preparing a speech style dictionary including speech style and prosody data which corresponds to said voice-contents identifier (Col.1, lines 61- 67); and,

supplying said speech style dictionary to a server provided in a communication network or a terminal device connected via said server (Col.5, lines 22-54).

As per claim 7, Vermeulen et al., teach the prosody data distributing method according to claim 6, wherein said prosody data comprises at least a sequence of phonetic symbols that are voice elements into which said voice contents of said stereotyped sentence are broken up, and information on a duration, an intensity and power of each of voice elements constituting sequence of phonetic symbols (Col.1, lines 21-51, Col.7, lines 33-58).

As per claim 8, Vermeulen et al., teach the prosody-data distributing method according to claim 6, wherein in case where said speech dictionary is supplied to a terminal device connected via said server provided in said communication network, said terminal device comprises means for pointing a speech style dictionary corresponding to a speech style pointed by a terminal device user, data transfer means for transferring said pointed speech style dictionary to said terminal device from said server, and speech-style dictionary storage means for storing said transferred speech style dictionary into a speech-style dictionary memory in said device, so that voice synthesis

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is carried out with said speech style pointed by said terminal device user (Col.5, lines 22-54, Col.1, lines 21-51, Col.2, lines 22-51, Col.7, lines 33-58).

As per claim 9, Vermeulen et al., teach the prosody-data distributing method according to claim 7, wherein preparation of said speech style dictionary produces prosody data by referring to a management list of contents for synthesis which is open to public (Col.4, lines 31-49).

### ***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Chihara (6,470,316) teaches speech synthesis apparatus having prosody generator with user-set speech rate or adjusted phoneme duration dependent selective vowel devoicing.

Chihara (6,499,014) teaches a speech synthesis apparatus.

Farrett (5,636,325) teaches speech synthesis and analysis of dialects.

Campbell et al., (6,366,883) teach concatenation of speech segments by use of a speech synthesizer.




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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vijay B. Chawan whose telephone number is (571) 272-7601. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday Through Friday 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on (571) 272-7602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Vijay B. Chawan  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2654

vbc  
6/20/05

**VIJAY CHAWAN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**